

Useful expressions for structuring a text

1. Structuring arguments		
English expression	German expression	Example
in general	im Allgemeinen	<i>In general, one can say that both have made mistakes.</i>
first of all, ...	zuerst ...	<i>First of all, X tells a lie.</i>
first / firstly ...	zuerst ...	<i>First / Firstly, X tells a lie.</i>
second / secondly, ...	zweitens ...	<i>Second / Secondly, X does not present any excuses.</i>
then ...	dann ...	<i>Then there is the problem of how to deal with the situation.</i>
another point is ...	ein weiterer Punkt ist, dass ...	<i>Another point is that X behaves rather strangely towards Y.</i>
lastly, ...	schließlich ...	<i>Lastly, I would like to mention that both friends have made mistakes.</i>
finally, ...	zuletzt ...	<i>Finally, one can say that both friends have made mistakes.</i>
2. Giving reasons		
English expression	German expression	Example
due to ... (nicht am Satzanfang)	wegen, aufgrund ...	<i>The flight has been cancelled due to a storm.</i>
because of ...	wegen, aufgrund ...	<i>X is very likable because of his / her behaviour towards Y.</i>
as a result of ...	als Folge von ...	<i>As a result of X's behaviour, Y feels welcome at the new school.</i>
therefore, ...	daher ...	<i>Therefore, I can fully support this statement.</i>
3. Adding aspects		
English expression	German expression	Example
in addition, ...	außerdem ...	<i>In addition, everybody has put a lot of effort into that work.</i>
additionally, ...	außerdem ...	<i>Additionally, X's friends have supported their classmate.</i>
moreover, ...	außerdem ...	<i>Moreover, X really cares about his / her friends.</i>
furthermore, ...	außerdem ...	<i>Furthermore, X does anything in his / her power to solve the problem.</i>

4. Expressing contrasts		
English expression	German expression	Example
although ...	obwohl ...	<i>Although X behaves rather badly at the beginning, he / she is really supportive in the end.</i>
while ...	während ...	<i>While everybody is unsure what to do, X decides to act.</i>
however,	aber ... / jedoch ...	<i>However, X does not give up.</i>
in contrast to	im Gegensatz zu ...	<i>In contrast to his friends, X is rather shy.</i>
on the contrary, ...	im Gegenteil ...	<i>On the contrary, I believe X did the right thing.</i>
5. Giving examples		
English expression	German expression	Example
for example,	zum Beispiel, ...	<i>X is very helpful, for example when he / she offers to help Y with his / her project.</i>
... such as ...	wie beispielsweise ...	<i>Sweets such as soft caramel or chewing-gum are bad for your teeth.</i>
6. Drawing conclusions and expressing opinions		
English expression	German expression	Example
to sum up, ...	zusammenfassend ...	<i>To sum up, I think X is right.</i>
to conclude, it seems ...	zusammenfassend scheint es zu sein, dass ...	<i>To conclude, it seems that both friends have made mistakes.</i>
on the one hand, ...	einerseits ...	<i>On the one hand, one can say that X is a very happy person.</i>
on the other hand ...	andererseits ...	<i>On the other hand, we see that X has some dark secrets, too.</i>
in conclusion one can say that ...	zusammenfassend lässt sich sagen, dass ...	<i>In conclusion one can say that X is such a model for many young people because he / she presents so many good qualities.</i>
consequently	infolgedessen ...	<i>Consequently, I would very much like to recommend this book.</i>
all in all	alles in allem ...	<i>All in all it was a fascinating read.</i>